



THE
LIVINGSTON
GROUP, L.L.C.

5356

DISSEMINATION

for EGYPT file

SD/SES/REGISTRATION UNIT

2011 JAN 31 PM 4:08

From: Livingston, Robert

Dear

As you may already be aware, this last July Senators Feingold and McCain introduced S. Res. 586, a resolution supporting democracy and human rights in Egypt. As the Senate reconvenes for the lame-duck session, we have heard that Senators Feingold and McCain plan to hot-line S. Res. 586.

As Egypt faces some criticism in the press in the lead-up to its parliamentary elections and next year's presidential elections, we believe that direct dialogue with the U.S. Administration and Congress are crucial to its continued development and reform activities. For example, Egypt has released hundreds of detainees after the May Amendments to the Emergency Law, which is now confined to cases related to terrorism and drug-smuggling until the new counter-terrorism law is presented and considered by the Egyptian Parliament.

As a member of the Committee, you know very well the strategic importance of Egypt and the importance of maintaining a strong relationship based on mutual respect.

Most recently, following a meeting with Egyptian Foreign Minister Aboul Gheit on November 10, Secretary Clinton reiterated the nature of and importance of our bilateral relationship: "*The partnership between the United States and Egypt is a cornerstone of stability and security in the Middle East and beyond, and we look to Egypt for regional and global leadership on a wide range of issues. This is a relationship rooted in mutual respect and common interest and a history of cooperation and a shared vision for the future.*"

The list of matters of mutual interest includes:

- (1) A two-state solution for Israelis and Palestinians,
- (2) A stable, sovereign and self-reliant nation for the Iraqi people,
- (3) A peaceful outcome for Sudan, and
- (4) A strong, independent and stable Lebanon.

Thank you, for your overall commitment to the US-Egypt relationship.

Best wishes,

S. Res. 586 is not conducive to the ongoing, open and frank dialogue on issues related to democracy and human rights undertaken by our Administration and the Egyptian government.

We ask for your careful consideration of the impact that adoption of this resolution will have on our bilateral relationship. We hope that you will oppose this Resolution if brought up in the full Senate.

Many thanks,

Bob

THE LIVINGSTON GROUP, LLC PROVIDES REPRESENTATION FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF THE ARAB REPUBLIC OF EGYPT. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE AT THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, WASHINGTON, DC.

SD/SES/REGISTRATION UNIT
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From: Livingston, Robert

Dear Senator –

As the Senate reconvenes for the lame-duck session, we have heard that Senators Feingold and McCain will again work to hot-line S. Res. 586.

S. Res. 586, as previously stated, is *not* conducive to the ongoing, open and frank dialogue undertaken by the U.S. Administration and the Egyptian government on issues related to democracy and human rights.

As a member of the Committee, you know very well the strategic importance of Egypt – and, the importance of maintaining a strong relationship based on mutual respect.

Support for Egypt continues from the Administration. Most recently, following a meeting with Egyptian Foreign Minister Aboul Gheit on November 10, Secretary Clinton reiterated the nature of and importance of our bilateral relationship: “*The partnership between the United States and Egypt is a cornerstone of stability and security in the Middle East and beyond, and we look to Egypt for regional and global leadership on a wide range of issues. This is a relationship rooted in mutual respect and common interest and a history of cooperation and a shared vision for the future.*” The list of issues of mutual interest includes: (1) a two-state solution for Israelis and Palestinians, (2) a stable, sovereign and self-reliant nation for the Iraqi people, (3) a peaceful outcome for Sudan, and (4) a strong, independent and stable Lebanon.

We ask for your careful consideration of the impact that adoption of this resolution will have on our bilateral relationship. We hope that you will oppose this Resolution if brought up in Committee or in the full Senate.

Many thanks –
Bob

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From: Livingston, Robert

Dear _

As you may already be aware, in July Senators Feingold and McCain introduced S. Res. 586, a resolution on supporting democracy and human rights in Egypt. As the Senate reconvenes for the lame-duck session, we have heard that Senators Feingold and McCain plan to hot-line S. Res. 586.

As Egypt faces some criticism in the press in the lead-up to its parliamentary elections and next year's presidential elections, we believe that direct dialogue with the U.S. Administration and Congress are crucial to its continued development and reform activities. For example, Egypt has released hundreds of detainees after the May Amendments to the Emergency Law, which is now confined to cases related to terrorism and drug-smuggling until the new counter-terrorism law is presented and considered by the Egyptian Parliament.

As a member of the _____ Committee, you know very well the strategic importance of Egypt – and, the importance of maintaining a strong relationship based on mutual respect.

Most recently, following a meeting with Egyptian Foreign Minister Aboul Gheit on November 10, Secretary Clinton reiterated the nature of and importance of our bilateral relationship: "*The partnership between the United States and Egypt is a cornerstone of stability and security in the Middle East and beyond, and we look to Egypt for regional and global leadership on a wide range of issues. This is a relationship rooted in mutual respect and common interest and a history of cooperation and a shared vision for the future.*" The list of issues of mutual interest includes: (1) a two-state solution for Israelis and Palestinians, (2) a stable, sovereign and self-reliant nation for the Iraqi people, (3) a peaceful outcome for Sudan, and (4) a strong, independent and stable Lebanon.

S. Res. 586 is not conducive to the ongoing, open and frank dialogue on issues related to democracy and human rights undertaken by our Administration and the Egyptian government.

We ask for your careful consideration of the impact that adoption of this resolution will have on our bilateral relationship. We hope that you will oppose this Resolution if brought up in the full Senate.

Many thanks,

Bob

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From: Livingston, Robert

Dear

I write to make you, and the Senator, aware of S. Res. 586, a resolution on supporting democracy and human rights in Egypt, introduced by Senators Feingold and McCain last week.

As Egypt faces some criticism in the press in the lead-up to its parliamentary elections and next year's presidential elections, we believe that direct dialogue with the U.S. Administration and Congress are crucial to its continued development and reform activities. For example, Egypt has released hundreds of detainees after the May Amendments to the Emergency Law, which is now confined to cases related to terrorism and drug-smuggling until the new counter-terrorism law is presented and considered by the Egyptian Parliament.

S. Res. 586 is not conducive to the ongoing, open and frank dialogue on issues related to democracy and human rights undertaken by our Administration and the Egyptian government.

We ask for your careful consideration of the impact that adoption of this resolution will have on our bilateral relationship.

Kind regards –

Bob Livingston

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Dear Secretary Clinton:

We write to express our support for a continued strong bi-lateral relationship between the United States and Egypt. As you know, Egypt is a proven friend, ally and partner in the pursuit of peace in the Middle East.

As Egypt faces some criticism in the press in the lead-up to its parliamentary elections and next year's presidential elections, we believe that direct dialogue with the U.S. Administration and Congress are crucial to its continued development and reform activities. We therefore wanted to take this opportunity to highlight some of the areas where U.S.-Egyptian cooperation is evolving in the region. Egypt is more than a strong U.S. ally; it is also a powerful force for positive change in the Middle East.

Thirty years after the Camp David Accords, Egypt continues to play an essential role in maintaining peace and stability in the region, with a unique role in the Palestinian-Israeli peace process. Beyond hosting peace talks between the two factions, Egypt is the only entity with the capability to broker peace negotiations between the split Palestinian groups. The Egyptian Government has also worked diligently with the U.S. and Israel to end the smuggling of goods and arms in tunnels between Egypt and Gaza that have benefited Hamas and created a serious security risk. Egypt's leadership greatly benefits the United States and provides us with the critical support needed as we pursue our diplomatic agenda in the Middle East.

At the same time, Egypt stands as an important voice of moderation in the region against religious and political extremism. Over the past several months, the Egyptian Government has thwarted Hamas and Hezbollah efforts to use Egyptian territory to plan and execute attacks on Israel. And, Egypt's religious leadership has led an effective campaign against al-Qaeda ideology, which has proven successful in moderating the views of many radicals.

Similarly, Egypt continues to be at the forefront of women's rights in the region, with Egyptian women serving as judges, politicians, members of the state council, and represented in every profession. In the upcoming parliamentary elections, at least 12% of the seats in the Lower House were designated – by law – to be held by women. This interim measure is aimed at spreading a culture of gender equality.

Around the region, we have seen Egypt continually show a commitment to many of its neighbors, including the people of Sudan, by providing peacekeepers in this war-torn country, as well as political and economic support so that peace and security may be achieved one day. In addition, Egypt has also been a key supporter of coalition forces in Iraq by providing training and equipment to Iraqi police forces.

Finally, while the economic crisis affected countries across the globe, Egypt's economy only slowed from 8% annual GDP growth to 5% annual rate. This achievement was only possible because of the massive reforms Egypt has undergone. These reforms helped stabilize the financial markets, strengthened the Egyptian currency, increased exports, and continued to attract foreign direct investments. In fact, for the fourth year in a row, Egypt was chosen as one of *Doing Business' Top 10 Reformers*.

We look forward to the Obama Administration continuing to engage with Cairo as we strengthen the foundation of this important relationship.

From: Livingston, Robert

this is a straight up resolution that has a great theme....in favor of human rights.

The problem is that next year Egypt has presidential elections. Mubarak is 82 years old. We can't say what will happen then. But the Muslim Brotherhood is out there, and any statement of criticism by the US is used against the government.

Remember what happened in Palestine. We urged support for human rights and free elections, and Hamas was duly elected.

We can't afford a repeat in Egypt. Resolutions like this don't make sense, and we ought not adopt simplistic slogans no matter how nice they sound, when we have no idea what the consequences can be.

All we ask is that this not be hotlined, but that it be considered in the light of day next year by the appropriate committee.

Thanks very much.

Bob Livingston
202 289 9881

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